

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BEING EVICTED?

EVICTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS MUST BE COURT ORDERED.

You do not need to leave just because your landlord tells you to leave or gives you a notice to quit. If your landlord files in court, you will receive a summons from the court and you are not required to leave until a court orders you to do so.

A LANDLORD CAN'T THROW YOU OUT WITHOUT A COURT ORDER.

Your landlord cannot:

- Move your belongings out of your apartment,
- Change your locks,
- Shut off your utilities, or
- Interfere with your use of the unit without permission from the court.

If your landlord has done or threatens to do any of the above, you can call the Attorney General's Office at (617) 727-8400.

IF YOU HAVE A COURT DATE FOR AN EVICTION HEARING:

Get legal help. Visit evictionlegalthelp.org, or contact the court service center and ask about their Lawyer for the Day program. You may have defenses or counterclaims to prevent your eviction.

Some examples of defenses include:

- There are serious problems with the condition of your home;
- Your landlord did not give you the written notice required;
- Your landlord is retaliating against you for exercising your rights or discriminating against you

OVER 



ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BEING EVICTED?

STATE RENT RELIEF: RAFT

The RAFT program helps keep households in stable housing situations when facing eviction, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies caused by loss of income and/or increase in expenses. RAFT is available to *all* MA residents, regardless of immigration status!

The new RAFT benefit cap of \$10,000 is in effect through June 30, 2023. Apply online at: applyhousinghelp.mass.gov

YOUR LANDLORD CAN'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU FOR RECEIVING FINANCIAL HELP.

Your landlord can't discriminate against you because you receive government benefits.

If your landlord refuses to accept RAFT or refuses to fill out their portion of the application, they may be violating Massachusetts law.

To report discrimination, call the Civil Rights Division at (617) 963-2917 or file a civil rights complaint at www.mass.gov/ago/civilrightscomplaint.

THERE MAY BE FREE LEGAL HELP AVAILABLE TO YOU:

- Legal services lawyers may be able to assist if you cannot afford a lawyer.
- Visit evictionlegalhelp.org for more information.
 - There are volunteer lawyers available in Housing Court to help you through.
- The Lawyer for the Day program.
 - If you have a hearing, tell the judge or the mediator right away that you would like to speak to a lawyer.
- The Court Service Centers can explain the court process, provide court forms, and give written instructions for responding to a summons and complaint.

